

GOD'S DREADFUL JUDGMENT



O N

Cruel, Wicked, and Disobedient

Children to their Parents.



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Street, WOLVERHAMPTON.

God's dreadful JUDGMENT, &c.

NEAR the City of Exeter liv'd one Mr. Robert Davis, who being a Gentleman of good Account, and having only one Son, in whom he took great Delight, and gave him a good Education, and thought there nothing too good for him the World could afford: But as Children many Times, that Parents take the greatest Care of and are most indulgent to, prove their greatest Grief, so it happened with this young Man; for as soon as he came to the Age of twenty Years, he courted a young Lady of a great Fortune, but could not obtain her because of the smallness of his Estate; which he went to his Father, and falling upon his Knees before him that it then lay in his Power to make him for ever happy, or else the most miserable of all Mankind. Upon which his Father ask'd him the Reason, he told him he had courted such a Lady, and had got her Consent, but could not get her Parents because they thought that what Means he had was not sufficient, nor equal to hers, therefore if his Father should assist him in such Things as was needful for his Equipage, and would lend him such Sums of Money as would make his Fortune equal to her, as soon as he was married he would pay him all again, and that he would take care of him and his loving Mother if ever

they should come to any want, and if he would not do so that he would certainly be the Destruction of his own Son, for he must surely destroy himself or come to some unshameful End; upon which his Father reply'd dear Son what you propose is so very hard, for you know very well that my Estate will hardly serve to do what you have propos'd, therefore if I should Mortgage or give my Estate to you to get you a Wife and you prove undutiful as many Children have been when they have got what their Parents had, and have turn'd them out of Doors, if you should do so what will become of your aged Mother and me: To which the Son answered, if ever I prove undutiful or disobedient to you or my Mother, or if I wrong you of a farthing, or don't return what I have from you, that God may make me a publick Example to all Mankind, and consume all the Substance that I have without or within, and if ever my Mother should come to Want, I will take care of you and honour and obey you while I have a day to live.

His Father hearing so many fair Promises and Protestations, thinking his Son had more Grace than to be guilty of the Breach of them he freely gave him a large Sum of Money with which he bought himself a Coach and Horses and other Things that was proper for one of that quality, and in short he came so many times to his Father, and had such large Sums of

Money from him to uphold his Pride, that at last he had mortgaged all his Estate and borrowed a great deal of Money besides which brought the old Man very low, but the Son having the good Fortune to accomplish his Desire was married to a young Lady, with whom he got a large Fortune and lived in great Splendor, but took no thought of his aged Parents to pay the Money which he had from them, altho' he knew that they had borrowed a great deal of it, and his Father seeing he did not fulfill his Promises went and put him in Mind of them, but he little regarding any Thing that his Father said, told him that he should have no Money of him, for he had done no more than a Father ought to do for a Son. Upon which his Father return'd Home with a sorrowful Heart, and soon after was sent to jail for the Money he had borrowed; and having no way to help himself he sent his Wife to his Son to let him know it, and beg of him that he would help him, and not let him die in that Place, upon which the old Gentlewoman went and fell on her Knees to her Son, and with Tears in her Eyes begg'd of him for God's Sake to consider his aged Father and help him out of Prison, or else he would certainly break his Heart: But it was to no purpose for he not regarding the Tears of his Mother, nor his Father's Condition, utterly denied them both and would not own them to be his Parents but

pushed them out of Doors, and told her, that if ever she came to trouble him any more he would send her to the House of Correction, upon which the old Woman with a sorrowful Heart went and told her Husband, which sorrowful News struck such a damp to his Heart that he fell sick and in two Days after broke his Heart and died, and the poor aged Mother being left destitute of all Comfort wander'd about to get Relief for about a Year after, till at last she being quite spent with grief and Travelling and very Sick with all, came again to her Son to see if his hard Heart was turned, and setting herself down at his Gate, sent a Messenger in to tell him that there was one at the Gate that wanted to speak with him; upon which he went to the Gate, and seeing it was his Mother, he began to curse and utter many cruel Oaths, asking her how she durst come to trouble him. The poor Mother reply'd, dear Son, take Compassion and let me lie in one of your Barns, and subsist me with the scraps that come from your Servants Table, for I am not able to Travel any farther, my Heart is almost broke, and my End is near at Hand.

But all her Sighs and Tears were in vain, for he not regarding the moan she made, with an angry Look and many terrible Oaths, bid her begone for he would not be troubled with any such old Beggary Devils as she, and hunted the Dogs at her; but the Dogs having more

Compassion than their Master, would not meddle with her; the poor distressed Woman seeing her Son's Cruelty, return'd about 20 Yards from the Gate, and there fell down Dead, and lay till a Gentleman came riding that way, who seeing her lie upon the Road caused her to be buried, thinking she was some poor Creature who died for want.

But mark how the Judgment of Almighty God punished the Wicked Wretch her Son, for he could not rest Night nor Day, in the Day a troubled Conscience, and in the Night for fearful Dreams and Apparitions, his Substance wasted away like Snow with the heat of the Sun. That he was tossed between Hope and Despair for the Space of three Months, and riding out upon the 29 of December last, in his Coach to divert himself, till his four Horses were struck Dead, by a terrible Flash of Lightning, and his Coach almost burnt, and he himself in a dismal Condition, and was carried home half dead; and sorrow increasing daily, he became a most miserable Spectacle, nothing but Confusion attending him, both within and without, most of his houses being burnt, and no body could tell how. So all that he had got from his aged Parents by deceit was then consumed; and his own Misery increased daily, so that his Life was a burthen to him; In the Night always when he fell into a Slumber, he thought his Father and Mother

appeared to him in a dreadful manner upbraiding him for his Cruelty, and threatening his Destruction; so that he waked many Times with fearful Groans saying the Dogs which he set at his Mother were tearing him in pieces.

Thus he was tormented Night and Day, many came to visit him and deplored his condition; the Minister of the Parish and several others that came exhorted him to Repent, but he cried out, Gentlemen I fear it is too late, there is no Repentance for me, for how can I expect any Pity from God, or think that he should regard me in my Extremity, when I had no Pity on my aged Father, nor would hear his Complaint when he lay in Prison, altho' I was the cause of his being in that Place, and it lay in my Power to have succour'd him and brought him out, but oh! the cruelty of my wicked Heart, would not afford him one Comfortable Word nor give him any Relief, which broke his aged Heart, how shall I expect God will hear my Cries in my great Milery, when I would not hear the pitiful Complaint of my poor aged Mother, when she came to my Gate in a very low Condition, and begged to lie in one of my Barns, only to be nourished with what came from my Servants Table, my Rebellious Heart disdaining to own her to be my Mother, nor would I afford her any Pity, altho' she had been so tender over me, and suffer'd so much for my Sake, the Reward

that I could afford her, was to hunt my Dogs at her, nor would my cruel Heart pity her when I saw her fall down Dead, for which now the Devil and his Angels stand ready to seize my miserable Soul as soon as it departs my Body, to carry it to an eternal Prison, where it must be tormented for ever without any Pity or Compassion; O therefore let my miserable End be published, as a warning to all Children of Disobedience, and let such consider that the Sin of the Breach of the 5th Commandment is so heinous and aggravating in the Sight of God, Men may escape punishment in this World, God will not let them escape his Righteous Judgments in the World to come.



